

106 MEMORY, HABIT, AND
IMITATION

of a young American clergyman, Mr. Hanna, who suffered complete loss of memory owing to a fall from his dog-cart. When he recovered consciousness he was as helpless as a baby. His past was a blank; he had no perception of distance or solidity : he could neither eat, speak, nor walk. It took some months' instruction to restore these capacities. but, having recovered them, he remained with an entirely new personality. Gradually old memories surged up. at first in dreams. then during waking moments. and, after a strange conflict between his two personalities, his original disposition slowly reasserted itself.

The ever-flowing current of recollections is for the most part subconscious, and is not apprehended by us in our conscious conditions. But it rises to the surface from time to time, thrown upwards by touching a feeling of pleasure or pain. an emotion, or a resolution of the will. We are suddenly aroused from a "brown study" by the occurrence of a recollection that we have omitted to post a letter. For a time—it may be a long time—the stream will flow through the realms of consciousness. It may take one of three courses. which may respectively be compared to a river which runs straight, to a river which meanders, and to a river which is twisted by sharp deflections. Our recollections will be, in the first case, a continuous reproduction of former impressions : in the second case, a recombination of

impressions
linked by trivial coincidences : in the
third case,
such a recombination linked by
emotional ex-
periences.

A good illustration of the first class of
recollections is the repetition of a piece of
poetry : word
succeeds word as originally learnt.
and. the less
is the emotion aroused by the recitation.
the more
word-perfect it will be. Some boys
will repeat